



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS
HEARING THE STORY – THE GENIUS OF VERDI
WITH METROPOLITAN OPERA'S, WILLIAM BERGER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hearing the Story, the Genius of Verdi with special guest speaker, the Metropolitan Opera's William Berger will be presented by Manitoba Opera, Saturday November 10, beginning at 1:30 pm at the Manitoba Museum Auditorium.

Presented in conjunction with the upcoming performances of *Rigoletto* at the Centennial Concert Hall, November 24, 27, and 30, this hour-long **presentation is free**, but registration is required. To register, call 204-942-7470 or email ldymond@manitobaopera.mb.ca

William Berger is a writer, producer and on-air commentator for the Metropolitan Opera and is also responsible for the Opera Quiz. He is the author of numerous books on opera, including one on Verdi – Verdi with a Vengeance - and speaks and writes about opera throughout the U.S.

"We are so pleased that Mr. Berger is able to take time from a very busy schedule with the Met to travel to Winnipeg. His opera knowledge is so extensive. It will be a wonderful opportunity for anyone wanting to gain insight into this amazing composer and his works," commented Darlene Ronald, Manitoba Opera's Director of Marketing.

"Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was as great a storyteller as anyone who ever lived, no exceptions," said Mr. Berger. "But we have to hear the story the way he chose to tell it, which is through music. The music is not great only because it is great music. That may be true for other composers, but for Verdi it is great music AND it gives us specific dramatic information. We need to HEAR the story."

Manitoba Opera is presenting two Verdi masterpieces in 2012/13 to celebrate its 40th season. *Rigoletto* will be presented November 24, 27, and 30; *Aida* occurs April 13, 16, and 19. Performances will take place at the Centennial Concert Hall. Tickets at 204-944-8824 or online at manitobaopera.mb.ca. For more information, go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca

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